
BERNARD WEBER

MY REPORT OF ACTIONS AND THOUGHTS OF MORNING OF DEC 7 2941
BERNARD L WEBER BM2c

I WENT ABOARD THE USS OKLAHOMA AUG 1938

I WAS COXSWAIN OF THE OFFICERS MOTOR BOAT. I, AND ONE OF THE DECK HANDS, WERE STANDING UP ON THE BOW WAITING TO BE CALLED AWAY, TO PICK UP OFFICERS, TO BE RETURNED TO THE OKLAHOMA.

WE HERD AIRPLANES BUT DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THEM UNTIL WE SEEN EXPLOSIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE USS OGLALA.

WE STILL DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT WAS HAPPENING UNTIL LOW FLYING AIRPLANES CAME ACROSS THE BAY AND CAME OVER THE SHIP, THEN WE SAW IT WAS JAP PLANES.

GENERAL QUARTERS SOUNDED. MY GUN STATION WS RUNNING THE HOIST WAS BRINGINE UP POWDER FROM THE HANDLING ROOM.

I WENT THROUGH THE ESCAPE HATCH UNDER THE OVERHANG OF NUMBER ONE TURRET, THROUGH THE GUN CHAMBER, THROUGH THE RIGHT READY COMPARTMENT THROUGH A 2 X 2 HATCH INTO THE HOIST ROOM, BY THAT TIME THE SHIP WAS STARTING TO LIST.

I MANNED THE PHONES AND I COULD HEAR MEN HOLLERING AND WATER RUNNING. WORD CAME TO ABANDON SHIP

I WENT OUT THROUGH THE READY ROOM AND GUN CHAMBER HOIST, THE ESCAPE HATCH. I WENT AROUND THE CASEMATE UNDER NUMBER 2 TURRET SO WHERE I COULD GRAB THE LIFE LINES OF THE MAIN DECK. BY THAT TIME THE SIDE OF THE SHIP WAS HORIZONTAL LIKE THE DECK SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

I RAN AND JUMPED OVER THE SIDE AND SWAM TO A MOTOR BOAT. WE STARTED TO PICK UP MEN FROM THE OILY WATER AND BRING THEM IN AND DUMPED THEM ON THE PIPE LINE. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TRIPS WE MADE, BUT THE LAST TRIP THERE WAS A CHIEF MOORING LINES AND HE HOLLERED & TOLD US TO CLEAR OUT CAUSE IF THEY WERE HIT THE WHOLE HARBOR WOULD BLOW UP.

WE WENT IN & WENT UP ON THE DOCK. THERE WAS 2 OFFICERS STANDING THERE. THEY TOLD US TO GO OVER TO THE RECREATION BUILDING ON FORD ISLAND.

WHEN WE WENT IN SOME WOMAN HANDED ME A TOWEL TO WIPE THE OIL OFF, AND SHE LIT A CIGARETTE AND GAVE IT TO ME. I WENT TO THE OTHER END OF THE BUILDING & WENT OUT SIDE. SOME SAILOR WENT WITH ME. WE WERE STANDING THERE AND A JAP PLANE CAME IN REAL LOW AND THE PILOT WAVED AT US.

SOME TIME LATER SOME GUY CAME UP AND HE HAD A PICK-UP LOADED WITH GUNS AND AMMUNITION. HE ASK US IF WE WANTED A PISTOL OR A RIFLE. WE TOOK THE RIFLES & BELTS OF AMMUNITION.

WE STOOD OUT THERE A WHILE AND WENT OUT ON THE END OF THE RUNWAY, BUT NO PLANES CAME OVER CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHOOT AT

THAT EVENING WE WENT OVER TO THE BARRACKS ON FORD ISLAND AND SPENT THE NIGHT. NEXT MORNING THERE WAS A OFFICER ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO GO TO LULALA. THIS IS A RECREATION CENTER FOR SAILORS OUT BY THE AMMUNITION DUMP

WE SPENT 2 OR 3 WEEKS THERE LOADING TRUCKS WITH AMMUNITION..

I WAS THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE USS NORTHAMPTON. WE WERE SUNK 11 MONTHS LATER IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

I WAS THEN SENT TO BROOKLYN N.Y. TO COMMISSION THE USS IOWA.

IN DEC 1844 I WAS TRANSFERRED OFF THE IOWA AND SENT TO BREMERTON WASHINGTON TO COMMISSION THE CVE 15.

I WAS DISCHARGED SEPT 1945

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